

REMARKS

Claims 1-54 were pending in the application prior to this amendment. Claims 3 and 31 are allowed. Claims 6, 17, 22, 25, 34, 40, 43, 46-47, 49, and 54 are objected to but would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1, 2, 4-5, 7-16, 18-21, 23-24, 26-30, 32-33, 35-39, 41-42, 44-45, 48, and 50-53 are rejected. Claims 1, 7, 10, 20, 21, 22, 26, 29, 35, 38, 41, 42, 45, 47, 48 and 52 have been amended. Claims 5, 6, 17, 24, 25, 33, 34, 40, 43, 46, 49 and 54 have been cancelled. Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 1, 2, 4, 7-16, 18-23, 26-30, 32, 35-39, 41, 42, 44, 45, 47, 48 and 50-53.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 6, 17, 25, 34, 40, 43, 46-47, 49 and 54 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant acknowledges the allowable subject matter.

Claim Objections

Claims 6, 10 and 20-22 are objected to because of informalities.

Claim 6 has been cancelled. Claims 10 and 20-22 have been amended.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 9-12, 15, 18-21, 28-30, 37-39, 42, 45, 48 and 51-53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,331,983 (Haggerty et al.).

Applicant traverses the rejection of claim 1. In the interest of furthering prosecution, claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable dependant claim 6. Thus claim 1 should be allowed. Claims 5 and 6 have been cancelled. Claims 2 and 9 are dependant and should also be allowed.

The rejections of claim 10, 20, 29, 38, 42, 45 and 48 are similarly traversed. Claims 10, 20, 29, 38, 42, 45, 48 and 52 have been amended to include subject matter that has been indicated as being allowable. Thus claims 10, 20, 29, 38, 42, 45, 48 and 52 should be allowed. Claims 17, 24, 25, 33, 34, 40, 46, 49 and 54 have been cancelled. Claims 11-12, 15, 18-19, 21, 28, 30, 37, 39, 51 and 53 are dependant and should also be allowed.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 5, 8, 13-14, 24, 27, 33, 36, 40, 43, 46 and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Haggerty et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,581,166 (Hirst et al.)

Claims 5, 24, 33, 40, 43, 46 and 49 have been cancelled. Claims 8, 13, 14, 27, and 36 are dependant and should be allowed.

Claims 4, 23, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Haggerty et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,959,968 (Chin et al.)

Claims 4, 23 and 32 are dependant and should be allowed.

Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Haggerty et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,757,281 (Irish).

Claim 16 is dependant and should be allowed.

Claims 41, 44, and 50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Haggerty et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,601,101 (Lee et al.)

Claims 41, 44 and 50 are dependant and should be allowed.

Claims 7, 26, and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Haggerty et al. and Hirst et al. as applied to claims 5, 24, and 33 above, and further in view of Rodrig.

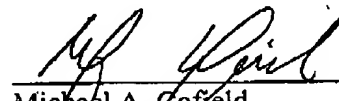
Claims 7, 26 and 35 are dependant and should be allowed.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 1, 2, 4, 7-16, 18-23, 26-30, 32, 35-39, 41, 42, 44, 45, 47, 48 and 50-53 of the application as amended is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

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